



**ORANGE COUNTY**  
**NORTH CAROLINA**  
**COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE**

300 West Tryon Street  
Post Office Box 8181  
Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278

Bonnie B. Hammersley, County Manager

Phone (919) 245-2300  
Fax (919) 644-3004

December 17, 2021

Dear Mayor Hemminger, Manager Jones and Chief Blue,

Orange County was so pleased to learn that Chapel Hill's Re-Imagining Public Safety Task Force recommended Town support for the Street Outreach, Harm Reduction and Deflection (SOHRAD) program. Specifically, we understand the Task Force requested support from the Town for a fourth position to serve SOHRAD in a peer support role. We understand the issue was on the Chapel Hill Council's consent agenda at the December 1, 2021, business meeting but was ultimately pulled to be re-considered in January 2022. We are reaching out to see if there is any way Orange County can provide support for this request before it is heard in January as we are proud of SOHRAD's work and believe that funding for a fourth position for the remainder of the fiscal year, as proposed in the agenda item, would provide critical front-line support at a very challenging time for individuals experiencing homelessness in our community.

As you know, Orange County's Criminal Justice Resource Department and Housing and Community Development Department received a 1-year grant to start the 3-person program in October of 2020. SOHRAD operates in downtown Chapel Hill and in little over a year has served over 230 individuals in Orange County experiencing homelessness. Importantly, over 60 SOHRAD clients have entered permanent housing, 68 have entered transitional housing and 91 have received clinical support. Due to these and many more program successes, Orange County allocated support through ARPA funds for the remainder of this fiscal year to ensure its continued work. Our hope is that a shared model of town and county government funding, similar to the Partnership to End Homelessness approach, can be discussed when budget season approaches in 2022.

We are so grateful for Chapel Hill's public support and partnership with SOHRAD and the Re-Imagining Public Safety Task Force's work to address innovative responses to important issues of public safety. As the numbers and needs of individuals experiencing homelessness continue to rise, we look forward to providing any information we can to support your Task Force's recommendation for an additional SOHRAD position. Corey Root and Caitlin Fenhagen created the attached Funding Materials for consideration prior to the December 1 Council meeting and are available to answer any questions or concerns from Chapel Hill.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Hammersley

cc: Sarah Vinas  
Caitlin Fenhagen  
Corey Root